

**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
100 MAPLE AVENUE  
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2015**

Present: Mr. John Samia, Chairperson; Ms. Sandra Fryc, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Erin Canzano, Secretary; Dr. B. Dale Magee, Mr. Jon Wensky, Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent; Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Cecelia Wirzbicki, Director of Business; Ms. Barbara Malone, Director of Human Resources

The meeting was convened at 6:00pm by Mr. Samia.

Mr. John Samia asked the School Committee if there was a motion to vote to enter into executive session in order to discuss negotiations with non-represented employees, where deliberation in open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the School Committee's bargaining position. On a motion made by Ms. Fryc, seconded by Dr. Magee, the School Committee voted unanimously to go into executive session at 6:00 PM. Roll call vote is as follows: Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes and Mr. Samia, yes.

After executive session was adjourned, the meeting was recessed, and then was re- convened at 7:00 PM by Mr. Samia.

**I. Public Participation**

None

**II. Chairperson's Report and Members' Report**

Mr. Wensky shared that he had taken his daughter to see the Oak Middle School production of Willy Wonka. He congratulated the students and staff on a great production. Mr. Wensky also mentioned the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Little Colonials Program at Shrewsbury High School (SHS). He complimented the leadership team and commented how this is a terrific milestone to celebrate.

Mr. Samia shared that while watching School Talk he learned that students who spend twenty to thirty minutes a day reading over the summer keep up their skills. He said that students who do not do this experience a regression in reading skills over the summer. Mr. Samia thanked all the teachers, staff and students who were involved and participated in the School Talk episodes. He thanked the Shrewsbury Media Connection and Dr. B. Dale Magee for their help in taking the show on the road and sharing the School Talk shows with the Shrewsbury community.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Sawyer congratulated the staff members and parent volunteers responsible for putting on the production of Willy Wonka. He said the cast and everyone involved with the production did an outstanding job. Dr. Sawyer congratulated all the staff members involved with the Little Colonials program and said the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program is a terrific milestone.

Dr. Sawyer congratulated SHS athletic teams and students including the boys' baseball team and the girls' tennis team on their victories in the playoffs, with the girls' tennis team winning the district championship for the third straight year.

Dr. Sawyer thanked all the families and students who registered on time for bus registration this year. Dr. Sawyer thanked all the administrators and staff members who worked to increase the on time registrations by 495 families and created an incentive program for families to register on time for bus registrations this year. He said that winners of prizes will be announced soon.

#### **IV. Time Scheduled Appointments**

##### **A. Retiring Staff: Recognition**

Ms. Barbara Malone recognized the fourteen staff members retiring this year from the Shrewsbury district. Some of the retirees spoke about their experiences and careers during their time in the district. The Committee members thanked all the educators and staff members who are retiring and wished them well during their retirement. Dr. Sawyer congratulated them, and each retiree was given a small gift of a paperweight recognizing their service to the school district.

##### **B. SHS School Improvement Plan: Report & Vote**

Mr. Todd Bazydlo, SHS Principal, and SHS Class of 2016 students Meghan Collins and Anthony Rotunno presented the SHS School improvement Plan. Meghan and Anthony will be on the SHS Student Council for the 2015-2016 school year. Mr. Bazydlo and the students presented information on the goals that supported the overall SHS School Improvement Plan for 2013-2015. Mr. Bazydlo and the students presented information about the goals for the 2015-2017 SHS School Improvement Plan. School Committee Members commented that the online learning management system that will be adopted next year, called Schoology, is a great tool and asked some questions about the functionality of the software. Committee members asked questions about the details of the plans. Dr. Sawyer thanked the SHS administrators, educators and staff for the excellent work they do that continues to make SHS a great school.

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the 2015-2017 Shrewsbury High School Improvement Plan.

#### **V. Curriculum**

##### **A. Feedback on state testing program to Board of Elementary & Secondary Education**

Ms. Banios discussed the proposed letter that will be sent to the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The letter incorporates the recommendations regarding the PARCC test discussed at the June 3, 2015 School Committee meeting, as well as the other recommendations related to the Shrewsbury district engaging in the PARCC testing trials. Ms. Banios discussed the details of the recommendations that will be included in the letter. The School Committee said the letter looked good

and they did not have any recommendations for changes to the letter. Dr. Sawyer thanked Ms. Banios for participating in this very important committee for the PARCC testing evaluations. He said he thinks the letter is done well and he recommended that the School Committee vote to support the letter.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Dr. Magee, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed letter with feedback on the state testing system to be sent to the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

## **VI. Policy**

### **A. Updated Policy on Employment Eligibility: Second Reading & Vote**

Mr. Samia reminded the School Committee Members that this was a second reading of Policy 301 Family Relationships and Employment. Dr. Sawyer said the policy, with the proposed revisions, was discussed last week and put out for public comment. Dr. Sawyer read the details of the proposed Policy 301. Mr. Samia asked the School Committee Members if there were any questions regarding the vote. Mr. Wensky said that he would recuse himself from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

Mr. Samia requested a motion for the School Committee to vote to approve the changes to Policy 301. On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Dr. Magee, the School Committee voted to approve the changes to Policy 301. Mr. Samia noted that the motion passed 4-0, with Mr. Wensky having recused himself.

## **VII. Budget**

### **A. Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Transfers: Vote**

Mr. Samia thanked Ms. Wirzbicki, who is leaving the district for a position with the Auburn Public Schools in July, for her professionalism, hard work and wished her well in the future. Ms. Wirzbicki reported on the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. She said that she and her staff have been working hard on the budget. Ms. Wirzbicki shared details about the budget and indicated that it is expected to fall in line with the projected target by using cost-saving efforts and the money allocated from the Circuit Breaker account.

Mr. Samia said the budget was well-done this year. Dr. Sawyer said the district and staff members, including Ms. Wirzbicki and Ms. Malone, have done a very good job monitoring the budget. Dr. Sawyer also thanked Ms. Wirzbicki for her service, particularly related to her strengths in customer service. Dr. Sawyer requested that the School Committee authorize the district to make the necessary budget transfers between the categories at the end of the fiscal year. He said the district will provide a final report at the end of Fiscal Year 2015. Dr. Sawyer said the district is in a very good position to land on target with the budget.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Dr. Magee, the School Committee voted to authorize the administration to make budget transfers between the categories to reconcile the Fiscal Year 2015 budget based on actual expenditures.

## **VIII. Old Business**

### **A. Meal Prices for 2015-2016: Vote**

Ms. Wirzbicki and Dr. Sawyer said they have not received any feedback from the public regarding the proposed twenty-five cent increase for school lunches. Dr. Sawyer said the increases for the lunch prices are necessary due to inflationary costs, the prices will still be reasonable, and the value for what is provided is very good. Ms. Wirzbicki noted that the prices for the breakfast program will remain the same.

On a motion by Ms. Fryc, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the increase of prices of all school lunches by twenty-five cents effective at the beginning of the 2015-2016 School Year.

## **IX. New Business**

### **A. Special Education Parent Advisory Committee: Update**

Dr. Sawyer shared a brief update on the Parent Special Education Advisory Committee and their role with the district. He thanked the parents that have been involved with the Advisory Committee. Dr. Sawyer said that the district will need to reach out to some parents for new leadership. He said he wanted to mention this and remind the School Committee about the significance of this group.

### **B. Shrewsbury Paraprofessionals Association Contract: Vote**

Ms. Malone said that the district has been in collective bargaining with the Paraprofessional Association. She discussed the details of the proposed three-year contract. She requested that the School Committee members support this contract. Dr. Sawyer thanked those that worked on the contract and said the communications with the union leadership have been very positive. He said the paraprofessionals are key employees and thanked them for their support of the agreement. Dr. Sawyer recommended that the School Committee members vote to support the proposed contract.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Dr. Magee, the School Committee voted unanimously to ratify the collective bargaining contract with the Shrewsbury Paraprofessionals Association for 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

### **C. Shrewsbury Food Service Association Contract: Vote**

Ms. Malone discussed the one-year proposed contract and said that this is another great group of workers. Dr. Magee highlighted that this is a committed group of people who do their jobs well and want to see this program succeed. Dr. Sawyer said the product is very good, the food service workers add a personal touch to make the experience of students positive, and he recommends ratifying this contract.

On a motion by Ms. Fryc, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the School Committee voted unanimously to ratify the collective bargaining agreement for the Shrewsbury Food Service Association for the 2015-2016 School Year.

### **D. Assabet Valley Collaborative Quarterly Update**

Dr. Sawyer shared the Assabet Valley Collaborative Quarterly Update. He shared the revised budget document and said the Assabet Valley Collaborative is in good financial shape.

## **X. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Samia requested a motion to approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting for June 3, 2015. On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting for June 3, 2015.

## **XI. Executive Session**

Executive session was held prior to the meeting – see above.

## **XII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the School Committee members voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM on a roll call vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Samia, yes.

Respectfully submitted  
Christine Taylor, Clerk

Documents referenced:

- 1) Retiring Staff Members: Report
- 2) SHS School Improvement Plan: Report and Slide Presentation
- 3) Feedback on PARCC for Board of Education: Letter
- 4) Updated Policy on Employment Eligibility: Memo
- 5) Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Transfers: Report
- 6) Shrewsbury Special Education Parent Advisory Council: Report
- 7) MOA Shrewsbury Paraprofessionals Association: Memo
- 8) Shrewsbury Cafeteria Workers Agreement: Memo
- 9) Assabet Valley Collaborative Quarterly Update: Report
- 10) School Committee Meeting Minutes for June 3, 2015: Report